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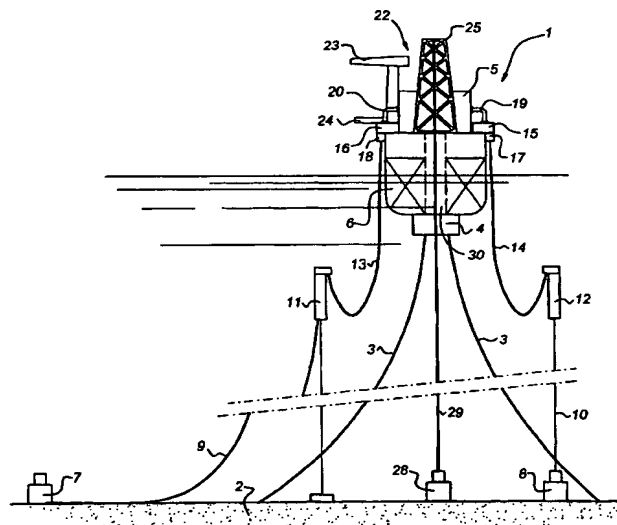
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(54) Title: RISER INSTALLATION VESSEL AND METHOD OF USING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a vessel (1) for exploration of hydrocarbons. The vessel comprises one or more risers (13, 14) extending from the vessel to the seabed, a hydrocarbon processing unit (5) connected to the one or more risers and to a storage or transport structure (6) for storing the processed hydrocarbons. The vessel is anchored to the seabed, the vessel comprising a lifting means (22) for lowering risers vertically towards the sea bed and for connecting a riser with a first end to a subsea hydrocarbon structure (7), which riser comprises a connector (18) on a second end, the vessel comprising a connector (16) for attaching to the riser connector and for placing the riser in fluid connection with the processing unit.

WO 2004/035375 A1

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/NL 03/00695

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B63B E21B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 347 912 B1 (THOMAS PIERRE-ARMAND) 19 February 2002 (2002-02-19) column 3, line 3 - line 24; figures column 5, line 39 - column 6, line 25	1
A	US 6 085 851 A (HERRMANN ROBERT P ET AL) 11 July 2000 (2000-07-11) column 5, line 10 - line 26; figures	1
A	US 4 643 614 A (LAURSEN NILS K) 17 February 1987 (1987-02-17) abstract; figures	1,9
A	US 4 074 541 A (LOCHRIDGE JOE COOPER) 21 February 1978 (1978-02-21) abstract; figures	1,9
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 182 584 A (HETTINGER FREDRIC L ET AL) 8 January 1980 (1980-01-08) cited in the application abstract; figures	1,9
A	DÉSERT: "Hybrid riser for deepwater offshore Africa" OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, vol. otc, no. 11875, 1 - 4 May 2000, pages 1-9, XP002234782 houston, texas cited in the application the whole document	1,9

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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